

FLEENOR et al.
09/998,465
Page 2

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse the invention drawn to a ferrule marked with indicia or a method of marking a ferrule or other fiber optic component with indicia, identified by the Examiner as Invention I, for examination. Currently, claims 1-23 are readable on the elected invention. Accordingly, claims 24 and 25 are hereby canceled without prejudice to be reinstated in the event the restriction requirement is withdrawn, to be resubmitted in dependent form or otherwise including all of the limitations of an allowable claim, or to be re-filed as one or more continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications.

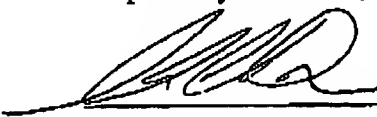
This response being fully responsive to the Office Action, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and the undersigned respectfully solicits such action on their behalf. This response does not result in more independent or total claims than paid for previously. Accordingly, no fee for excess claims is due. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any other fee due in connection with the filing of this response to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If an extension of time not already accounted for is required with this response, Applicants hereby petition for such extension of time and the Examiner is likewise authorized to charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,

FAX RECEIVED

JUN 17 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800


Christopher C. Dreman
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,504
P.O. Box 489
Hickory, NC 28603
Telephone: 828/901-5904
Facsimile: 828/901-5206

Dated: 6/17/03